

Introduction to the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development 2009 - 2011 Strategic Plan

The North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development began the process of developing the 2009-2011 Strategic Plan in the fall of 2008. From the beginning, it was determined that the experience of the current Committee Chairs would play a key role in the planning process. As a result, the Strategic Planning Committee was comprised of the Committee Chairs as well as other members of the Commission. The Strategic Plan was completed in three phases: (Phase I) Gathering input through the use of surveys, one-on-one meetings with agency heads, and meetings with Local Boards and their administrators; (Phase 2) Reviewing components of the plan by reviewing and prioritizing input from stakeholders and incorporating Commission members' recommendations; and (Phase 3) Drafting and developing plan by formulating the goals and objectives and refining and revising as needed. The result is the document presented here which will provide direction for the Commission during the next two years. The plan will be formally adopted at the May, 2009 meeting of the Commission.

Commission Core Beliefs

The North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development believes:

- The Commission is accountable for providing leadership in building and maintaining a quality workforce delivery system. This leadership will advocate for the policies and resources needed to strengthen the system.
- The workforce delivery system includes all agencies and organizations involved in increasing the quantity and quality of workers in the State, improving worker access to jobs and increasing worker access to information about the availability of jobs and training opportunities.
- Access to the system must be universal. The Commission will advocate for such access, identify barriers to that access, whether geographical, financial, cultural, or political, and make recommendations as how best to overcome those barriers.
- North Carolina workers and the workforce delivery system must be able to adapt quickly to the demands of the 21st Century economy and embrace continuous learning.
- Maintaining and growing a strong economy depends upon having a supply of educated and well-trained workers who possess the skills needed to make our state's businesses and industries globally competitive.
- A strong economy also depends on workers earning family-sustaining wages; therefore, the workforce system will strive to move workers into good jobs that pay good wages.
- Public institutions and public resources play a critical role in the development of an educated, well-trained workforce.
- Improvements to the workforce delivery system must focus on the needs of job seekers and employers and be based on factual, relevant and timely data.
- The JobLink Career Center System is the primary portal that directs jobseekers, workers and employers to employment and training services.